

ASSEMBLY, No. 1956

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE CHAPARRO

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Timberlake, Jasey, Lopez, Assemblyman Stanley,

Assemblywomen Jimenez and Murphy

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Statewide database of beds in shelters for the homeless.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning emergency shelters for the homeless and
2 supplementing P.L.1983, c.530 (C.55:14K-1 et seq.).
3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:
6

7 1. The New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency
8 shall allow operators of shelters for the homeless and selected local
9 information and referral providers who place persons in the shelters
10 to have access to real-time information about the occupancy status
11 of shelter beds in the State, as collected by the Homeless
12 Management Information System, in order to determine the
13 availability of shelter beds in the community or within a certain
14 geographic area. Shelter operators shall update information in the
15 Homeless Management Information System about the availability of
16 shelter beds not later than one hour after a bed becomes available,
17 or an available bed has been filled.

18 The provisions of this section shall not apply to shelters for
19 victims of domestic violence.
20

21 2. A shelter for the homeless, except a shelter for victims of
22 domestic violence, which is subject to regulation by the Department
23 of Community Affairs pursuant to N.J.A.C.5:15-1.1 et seq., shall
24 cooperate in providing any necessary information to the database,
25 as determined by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance
26 Agency, the Department of Community Affairs, and the Department
27 of Human Services, as a condition of being eligible to receive
28 funding for the shelter from the Department of Community Affairs
29 and the Department of Human Services.
30

31 3. This act shall take effect on the 60th day following
32 enactment.
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34

35 STATEMENT

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37 This bill would require the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage
38 Finance Agency (HMFA) to allow operators of shelters for the
39 homeless and others who place persons in homeless shelters to have
40 access to real-time information about the occupancy status of shelter
41 beds, as collected by the Homeless Management Information System
42 (HMIS), to determine the availability of shelter beds in the vicinity.
43 Each homeless shelter operator would be required to update
44 information about available shelter beds not later than one hour after a
45 bed becomes available, or an available bed has been filled. These
46 provisions will allow operators of homeless shelters that are currently
47 full to ascertain whether there are available beds in nearby shelters so
48 as to enable them to direct individuals in need of emergency shelter to

1 locations that can accommodate them. This bill also requires a shelter
2 for the homeless to cooperate in providing any necessary information
3 to the database, as determined by the HMFA, the Department of
4 Community Affairs, and the Department of Human Services, as a
5 condition of being eligible to receive funding for the shelter from the
6 Departments of Community Affairs and Human Services.
7 The bill would not apply to shelters for victims of domestic
8 violence.